THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) Yes, Sir. As per the information received from the State Government, five lions in Gir Forests in Gujarat have been killed recently due to electrocution caused by electrified wire fencing put up by the villagers.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. The State Government has investigated the matter. Following the investigation, four persons have been arrested and sent to judicial custody. To ensure non-recurrence of such cases, the State Government has taken the following steps:

(1) The peripheral region of Gir and other habitats of lion have been scanned for illegal electric fencing.

(2) Patrolling in the peripheral region has been intensified.

(3) Paschim Gujarat Vij Supply Company has been requested to guard against such illegal use of power and illegal electrified fencing.

(4) Awareness campaign has been intensified in the region to sensitize villagers against wildlife crime.

Illegal cutting of Trees

451. SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the business of illegal felling of trees is thriving in the entire country;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to take any stringent actions to stop this;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S. REGUPATHY): (a) No such report that the business of illegal felling of trees is thriving in the entire country has been received. However incidences of illegal felling of trees do take place and the action is taken against the offenders by respective State/UT Governments as per the existing Acts/Rules.

(b) to (d) Does not arise.

Genetically engineered crops

452. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of genetically engineered crops approved by the GEAC for the field testing and such crops approved for commercial cultivation;

(b) the crop-wise, area-wise and State-wise details of the GE crops; and

(c) the procedure for approving a GE crop for commercial cultivation after field testing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Bt cotton is the only genetically engineered

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.